

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

The claims are pending as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A forceps type apparatus for use with a hand, comprising:
  - a proximal section, the proximal section for engaging one of a portion of the radial side of the palmar surface of the hand or the ulnar side of the palmar surface of the hand without placing substantial pressure on a surface of the hand located over the carpal tunnel;
  - a middle section, the middle section connecting the proximal section with a distal section, with the middle section for engaging at least one of the middle finger, ring finger or small finger of the hand; and
  - a distal section, the distal section extending from the middle section for receiving the thumb and at least one of the index finger or middle finger of the hand, when the forceps type apparatus is positioned with the hand.
2. (Original) The forceps type apparatus of claim 1, wherein the distal section includes a working end.
3. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus of claim 2, wherein the working end includes an implement.
4. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus of claim 3, wherein the implement is for grasping, pinching, cutting, rotating, an electrical function or a mechanical function.
5. (Original) The forceps type apparatus of claim 1, wherein the proximal section positions the forceps type apparatus within the hand without engaging a surface of the hand located over the carpal tunnel.
6. (Original) The forceps type apparatus of claim 1, wherein the forceps type apparatus includes a pair of opposing blades.
7. (Original) The forceps type apparatus of claim 6, wherein the pair of opposing blades each comprise a proximal section, a middle section and a distal section.

8. (Original) The forceps type apparatus of claim 7, wherein each of the pair of opposing blades are a mirror image of the other of the pair of opposing blades.
9. (Original) The forceps type apparatus of claim 7, wherein the distal section of the corresponding opposing blades includes a working end.
10. (Original) The forceps type apparatus of claim 9, wherein the working end is located at the distal end of the distal section of the forceps type apparatus.
11. (Original) The forceps type apparatus of claim 10, wherein the working end is for at least one of grasping, pinching or cutting.
12. (Original) The forceps type apparatus of claim 9, wherein the working end performs a mechanical action related to the opposing movement of the distal pad of the thumb on one opposing blade toward the distal pad of at least one of the index finger and the distal pad of the middle finger on the other opposing blade.
13. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus of claim 9, wherein the working end of at least one of the opposing blades has a suitable connection means.
14. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus of claim 9, wherein the working end of at least one of the opposing blades has a suitable connection means for connecting an implement to the forceps type apparatus.
15. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus of claim 9, wherein the working end of a corresponding opposing blade is located at a distal end of the of at least one of the opposing blades has a suitable connection means for connecting an implement to the forceps type apparatus.
16. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus of claim 9, wherein an implement is integrated with the working end of at least one of the opposing blades.
17. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus of claim 9, wherein the implement is for

grasping, pinching, cutting, rotating, an electrical function or a mechanical function.

18. (Original) The forceps type apparatus of claim 7, wherein the proximal section, the middle section and the distal section form a generally arc shaped configuration.
19. (Original) The forceps type apparatus of claim 18, wherein the generally arc shaped configuration forms a generally concave side at a top side and an generally convex side at a bottom side for the forceps type apparatus.
20. (Original) The forceps type apparatus of claim 19, wherein the convex side includes an extension from a corresponding middle section of a corresponding opposing blade of the forceps type apparatus.
21. (Currently Amended) The forceps type apparatus of claim 18, wherein the proximal sections of the pair of [each] opposing blades ~~blade~~ meet and are connected by a radial hinge at the proximal end of the forceps type apparatus.[.]
22. (Currently Amended) The forceps type apparatus of claim 21, wherein the radial hinge comprises a mechanical connection means.
23. (Original) The forceps type apparatus of claim 18, wherein the middle section includes an extension from a corresponding opposing blade of the forceps type apparatus.
24. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus of claim 7, wherein the proximal section, the middle section and the distal section of a corresponding opposing blade form a generally jogged shape configuration.
25. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus of claim 24, wherein the generally jogged shape configuration includes a generally straight entrance configuration at the proximal end of the proximal section and a generally straight exit configuration at the distal end of the distal section.

- 26) (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus of claim 24, wherein the proximal sections of each opposing blade meet and are connected by an ulnar hinge at the proximal end of the forceps type apparatus.
27. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus of claim 26, wherein the ulnar hinge comprises a mechanical connection means
28. (Original) The forceps type apparatus of claim 7, wherein the proximal sections of each opposing blade are continuous with or integrally formed into the other opposing blade.
29. (Original) The forceps type apparatus of claim 7, wherein the width of the proximal end of the corresponding opposing blade approximates the width of base of the index finger of the hand.
30. (Original) The forceps type apparatus of claim 7, wherein the distal end of the distal section of the corresponding opposing blade approximates the combined width of the distal pad of the index finger and the distal pad of the middle finger of the hand.
31. (Currently Amended) The forceps type apparatus of claim 7, wherein the proximal ends of the proximal sections of the corresponding opposing blades of the forceps type apparatus correspond to the surface of the palm in the area of the horizontal crease at the radial side of the hand.
32. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus of claim 7, wherein the proximal ends of the proximal sections of the corresponding opposing blades of the forceps type apparatus correspond to an area on the palmar surface of the hand approximately half the distance between the horizontal crease and the pisiform bone on the ulnar side of the palm of the hand
33. (Original) The forceps type apparatus of claim 1, wherein the width of the proximal end of the proximal section of the forceps type apparatus approximates the width of base of the index finger of the hand.

34. (Original) The forceps type apparatus of claim 1, wherein the distal end of the distal section of the forceps type apparatus approximates the combined width of the distal pad of the index finger and the distal pad of the middle finger of the hand.
35. (Original) The forceps type apparatus of claim 1, wherein the proximal end of the proximal section of the forceps type apparatus corresponds to the surface of the palm in the area of the horizontal crease at the radial side of the hand.
36. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus of claim 1, wherein the proximal end of the proximal section of the forceps type apparatus corresponds to an area on the surface of the palm of the hand approximately half the distance between the horizontal crease and the pisiform bone on the ulnar side of the palm of the hand
37. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus of claim 1, wherein the proximal section, the middle section and the distal section form a unitary structure.
38. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus of claim 1, wherein the proximal section, the middle section and the distal section form a unitary structure including a unitary blade.
39. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus of claim 38, wherein the unitary blade includes a working end.
40. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus of claim 39, wherein the working end includes an implement.
41. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus of claim 40, wherein the implement is for grasping, pinching, cutting, rotating, an electrical function or a mechanical function.
42. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus of claim 38, wherein the unitary blade includes an implement.

43. (Withdrawn) The forceps type apparatus of claim 42, wherein the implement is for grasping, pinching, cutting, rotating, an electrical function or a mechanical function.
44. (Currently Amended) A handle for use with a hand, comprising:
- a proximal section, the proximal section for engaging one of a portion of the radial side of the palmar surface of the hand or the ulnar side of the palmar surface of the hand without placing substantial pressure on a surface of the hand located over the carpal tunnel;
  - a middle section, the middle section connecting the proximal section with a distal section, with the middle section for engaging at least one of the middle finger, ring finger or small finger of the hand; and
  - a distal section, the distal section extending from the middle section for receiving the thumb and at least one of the index finger or middle finger of the hand, when the handle is positioned with the hand.
45. (Original) The handle of claim 44, wherein the distal section includes a working end.
46. (Withdrawn) The handle of claim 45, wherein the working end includes an implement.
47. (Withdrawn) The handle of claim 46, wherein the implement is for grasping, pinching, cutting, rotating, an electrical function or a mechanical function.
48. (Withdrawn) The handle of claim 44, wherein the distal section includes an implement.
49. (Withdrawn) The handle of claim 48, wherein the implement is for grasping, pinching, cutting, rotating, an electrical function or a mechanical function.
50. (Original) The handle of claim 44, wherein the proximal section positions the handle within the hand without engaging a surface of the hand located over the carpal tunnel.

51. (Currently Amended) The handle of claim 44, wherein the middle section avoids placing substantial pressure on the surface of the hand located over the carpal tunnel.